

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

15 A portable data exchange device including a data input, a data
output, and a memory is incorporated into a mechanical or
electronic key that is required for operating a motor vehicle.
The data exchange device can exchange data bi-directionally or
uni-directionally with a data processing device in the vehicle
20 and with an external input/output terminal. The data may include
vehicle-specific and/or driver-specific data relating to various
systems of the vehicle. The data are transmitted to and from the
device in the key in a wireless or direct-contacting manner.
This device incorporated in the key avoids the need for carrying
25 a separate data unit for exchanging data between the on-board
data processing device of the vehicle and the external
input/output terminal.